



DR. LINDA ESPINOSA-KEYNOTE SPEAKER

During her keynote address, Dr. Espinosa highlighted topics such as:

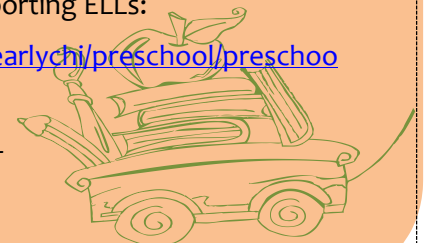
- Dual Language Learners vs. English Language Learners
- The Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant
- Brain research with infants from Patricia Kuhl's TED Talk on the MEG (Magnetoencephalography) Machine
http://www.ted.com/talks/patricia_kuhl_the_linguistic_genius_of_babies

Dr. Espinosa also noted the following important points:

- Human interaction is critical to learning language at a young age.
- Wait time is critical for students to process in both languages.
- Socioeconomic Status (SES) is a strong factor with DLLs and achievement, but high quality early childhood programs have the potential to reduce achievement gaps by 30%.
- Early childhood educators should assess students in both L1 and L2 to note differences.
- More code switching in preschool predicts stronger proficiency in both languages.

GREAT RESOURCES!!!

- 1) Dr. Linda Espinosa: Espinosal@missouri.edu
- 2) Resources for Supporting ELLs:
http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/preschool/preschool_ell.htm
- 3) ISBE Division of ELL
(312) 814-3850



Educating our youngest dual language learners

ITBE's Early Childhood Special Interest Group

We did it!!! Through the commitment of a core group of early childhood educators, we have established ITBE's Early Childhood Special Interest Group (EC-SIG)! Now that we are officially formed, we invite other dedicated educators to join as we work to support the cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional development of our youngest dual language learners.

During our first official meeting, we accomplished a great deal!

- Dr. Linda Espinosa gave a key note address on educating Dual Language Learners.
- Tina Paduck from the Illinois State Board of Education presented information on early childhood services for ELLs.
- Educators discussed collaborating with families, advocacy, blended classrooms, policy, and research in focus groups.
- A chair and two co-chairs were elected for our EC-SIG. Yurimi Grigsby and Barbara Leys were elected as co-chairs. Valerie Jones was elected as chair.

OUR BOOKCLUB

Members who attended this meeting received a copy of: *Getting it Right for Young Children from Diverse Backgrounds: Applying Research to Improve Practice* (ISBN 978-0-13-222416-1) by Dr. Linda Espinosa as our first book club book. We will start a conversation on our very own blog. Look for the link to our blog on ITBE's website (www.itbe.org) in the coming months!

ONE AND ONLY YOU

Every single blade of grass,

And every flake of snow –

Is just a wee bit different...

There's no two alike, you know.

From something small, like grains of sand,

To each gigantic star

All were made with THIS in mind:

To be just what they are!

How foolish then, to imitate –

How useless to pretend!

Since each of us comes from a MIND

Whose ideas never end.

There'll only be just ONE of ME

To show what I can do –

And you should likewise feel very proud.

There's only ONE of YOU.

That is where it all starts

With you, a wonderful

Unlimited human being.

-James T. Moore



“Supporting our youngest dual language learners through service to our early childhood educators is the primary goal of this early childhood special interest group. Collaboration, practice, research, and policy are tools that will move this vision forward.”

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IMPORTANT: ISBE Policy Update!!!

As of July 1, 2014, teachers serving DLLs/ELLs are required to have an ESL endorsement. There is a proposed **change** to this policy. Proposed amendment to Part 228 (Transitional Bilingual Education) can be found at <http://www.isbe.net/rules/proposed/default.htm> Click on: “Summary of Action” for the details. Be sure to send in questions, comments, and concerns by July 14, 2014 to: rules@isbe.net OR Shelley Helton, Agency Rules Coordinator, ISBE, 100 North First Street – S-493, Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001